1. (currently amended) A method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method comprising the steps of:

    making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~is capable of having a plurality of members; and

    deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality thereof.

2. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

    deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

3. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

    the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the set.

4. (original) The method set forth in claim 3 wherein:

    The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are separated by a separator character.

5. (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

    the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of members in the set.

6. (original) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

    the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding element.

1   **7.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are time values.

1   **8.** (original) The method set forth in claim 1 wherein:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of

3   the set are derived are location values.

1   **9. (cancelled)**

1   **10. (cancelled)**

1   **11. (cancelled)**

1   **12. (cancelled)**

1   **13. (cancelled)**

1   **14. (cancelled)**

1   **15. (cancelled)**

1   **16. (cancelled)**

1   **17. (cancelled)**

1   **18. (cancelled)**

1   **19. (cancelled)**

1   **20. (cancelled)**

1   **21. (cancelled)**

1   **22. (cancelled)**

1   **23. (cancelled)**

1   **24. (cancelled)**

1   **25.** (currently amended) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2   the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor performs a

3   method of aggregating a plurality of entries in a table in a database management system into an

4   aggregated entry in the table or another table in the database management system, the method

5   comprising the steps of:

6   making the aggregated entry, the aggregated entry representing the plurality of entries

7   and including a field whose value is a representation of a set that ~~may have~~is capable of having

8   a plurality of members; and

9   deriving members of the set from values contained in entries belonging to the plurality

10   thereof.

1   **26.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   the method further comprises the step of

3   deleting the plurality of entries represented by the aggregated entry.

1   **27.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   the representation of the set has a size which varies with the number of members in the

3   set.

1   **28.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 27 further characterized in that:

2   The representation of the set represents the set as a character string wherein each

3   member is represented by a sequence of characters and the sequences of characters are

4   separated by a separator character.

1   **29.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   the representation of the set has a size which is constant regardless of the number of

3   members in the set.

1   **30.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 29 further characterized in that:

2   the representation of the set represents the set as a string of elements, there being an

3   element corresponding to each potential member of the set, the presence of a particular

4   member in the set being indicated by a first value of the corresponding element and the

5   absence of the particular member being indicated by a second value of the corresponding

6   element.

1   **31.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are time values.

1   **32.** (original) The data storage device set forth in claim 25 further characterized in that:

2   in the step of deriving members of the set, the values from which the members of the

3   set are derived are location values.

     33. (cancelled)

5   **34. (cancelled)**

     35. (cancelled)

     36. (cancelled)

     37. (cancelled)

     38. (cancelled)

10   **39. (cancelled)**

     40. (cancelled)

     41. (cancelled)

     42. (cancelled)

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43. (cancelled)

44. (cancelled)

45. (cancelled)

46. (cancelled)

5   **47. (cancelled)**

  48. (cancelled)